



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **State Monitoring Effects of Earthquake and Urges Residents to Prepare for Additional Aftershocks**

MATHER - In response to Saturday's afternoon's 6.5 magnitude earthquake centered southwest of Eureka in Humboldt County, the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) is urging residents to ensure they are prepared for expected aftershocks and have an emergency plan and supplies at the ready. Cal EMA is also closely monitoring additional seismic activity and is ready to support local jurisdictions impacted if needed.

Cal EMA staff has been deployed to the impacted areas to determine the level of assistance needed and is working with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the California Geological Survey, and the California Emergency Utilities Association to gain a better understanding of the impacts - including initial reports of minor damage and interruption of power in some areas.

"The safety of everyone in the impacted areas is our highest priority," said Cal EMA Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen. "What is important now in the following hours and days is to assess immediate and potential long term damages," said Bettenhausen.

Cal EMA recommends that the residents review their family emergency plans, check their emergency supplies including battery-powered radios, identify the "safe" and "potential danger" spots in each room, remove breakables from locations from which they can fall and cause injury and stay tuned to radio or television for further information. Cal EMA also recommends government agencies and business review their emergency plans as well.

Federal, state, and local emergency management experts, the Red Cross, and other official preparedness organizations all agree that "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes

Jim Goltz, Cal EMA Earthquake Program Manager, advises citizens should be prepared for numerous aftershocks, some as large as or greater than today's earthquake are likely in the coming days and weeks and could cause additional damage.

Aftershocks will gradually subside in frequency as time passes, but it is important to take a few minutes to think over what you should do if an aftershock occurs while you are:

- In your home or another low-rise
- In a high-rise
- Outdoors
- Driving
- In a crowded public place such as a theater, stadium or arena

Make sure your building is safe.

- Check for damage to your building, including the foundation, roof and chimneys.
- Evacuate immediately if the building shows signs of partial or imminent collapse or is threatened by a fire.
- Check the building for fires, gas leaks, electrical shorts, broken water lines, spilled flammable or hazardous materials.
- If there's damage, turn off the utility at the source
- Evacuate immediately if the building is threatened by a large fire or if you hear or smell escaping gas.
- Report gas leaks to your utility company.
- Stay aware of your surroundings. Don't enter damaged buildings or sleep in locations where large, heavy items could fall on you.
- Clean up overturned furniture, broken glass and other nonstructural hazards.
- Don't use candles for lighting. They can topple over easily during an aftershock, causing a fire or an explosion if there's a gas leak.
- Don't use a charcoal grill or generator inside your building or garage (due to the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning)
- Wear a dust mask or avoid prolonged exposure in areas where there's a substantial amount of dust.

Check for hazards outside the building.

- Assume electrical wires that have fallen are live. Don't try to touch or move them
- Avoid contact with any surfaces that are touching fallen electrical wire, particularly

If you're forced to evacuate and must go to a shelter, you'll need to take the following items:

- "Go kit" with basic supplies, including non-perishable food, snacks, water, first-aid supplies, prescription medications, a portable radio and consumable medical supplies.
- For each person, a change of clothing, jacket, sturdy shoes, personal hygiene supplies, wash cloth and towel, pillow, blankets or sleeping bag
- Personal identification, credit cards, house keys, cell phone and charger, list of important phone numbers and important documents, including copies of insurance policies, birth certificates and other important documents.
- A few books, toys and games for children
- Special food or support materials for infants and elders who require those items.

If you have pets and need to evacuate, you'll have to take them to separate shelters set up especially for them and provide the following items:

- Food



- Water
- Feeding dishes
- Leashes
- Pet carriers
- Vaccination records
- Prescription medications

Additionally, Cal EMA and local response agencies need your cooperation to ensure that we can respond effectively to life-threatening situations:

Remain calm and continue to monitor your local television and radio stations for information and instructions from local officials.

Use the phone only to report life-threatening situations.

- If you have a life-threatening situation and your phone does not have a dial tone when you first pick up the receiver due to system damage and overload, wait for several minutes to see if the dial tone returns instead of hanging up and calling again immediately.

Once telephone service is restored, call your designated out-of-area contact to update them on your condition and location.

- Have them contact the rest of your family and friends to update them on your situation
  - Continue to limit your calls to emergency situations until advised otherwise by emergency officials.

If there's a power outage and you don't have to evacuate:

- You can safely use food stored in your refrigerator for up to four hours after the power failure.
- You can safely use food stored in the freezer section for up to two days if you minimize the number of times you open the door.

For more information regarding emergency and disaster preparedness and for information on the coordination of state resources during this event, please visit [www.calema.ca.gov](http://www.calema.ca.gov)

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